

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2023 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:00pm)

Present: Legan, Layne, Maxwell, McMorrow-Hunter, Mulholland

Also Present: Phillip Carrier, Dr. Laura Payne, Dr. Nathan Schaumleffel

Legan began the meeting with introductions of those present. Actionable agenda items were voted on first before Dr. Payne's presentation.

Approval of Minutes

I. 2023-504 Approval of August 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Maxwell, seconded by Lanye, to approve the August 28, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

Reports

II. 2023-505 GIS

No update given.

Old Business

III. 2023-506 Recreation Survey

Payne began her presentation by stating that the purpose of the recreation survey was to assess the usage of Jackson County outdoor recreation sites. The survey included information on when private property was used to access outdoor recreation activities in Jackson County. Payne discussed that the survey was used to examine opinions about the conditions of the existing public parks and natural areas and what prevents people from using the parks and natural areas. She also noted that 383 surveys were completed of the 3000 that were made available, which resulted in a 13% response rate. Payne discussed demographic information from the participants before continuing the presentation.

The next topic presented was suggestions for improvements that need to be made to some of the recreation areas. Trail maintenance and overall lack of area maintenance/upkeep were issues discussed. Payne noted that the survey also focused on the importance of benefits received from engaging in outdoor recreation activities such as overall health and well-being, relieving stress, improving mental health, connecting with nature and family. It was also noted that specific locations such as the Marbury Arboretum, Kinkaid lake, Murphysboro State Park etc. will have future projects that implement trail maintenance.

Of the surveys completed, Payne reported that 95% agree that parks and recreation enhance the sense of

community, 88% agreed that Jackson County needs more recreational trails, 83% are satisfied with the recreation opportunities in the county, 68% agreed that an indoor climbing gym would benefit the county, 32% disagree that there are enough parks in the county, and 22% disagree that parks are well maintained. Payne also reported that 92% of the surveys completed agree that the county should try to attract and support tourism, which has a vital role in the county. One of the recommendations from Dr. Payne was for the county to have a marketing and/or public relations campaign to educate people on recreation sites and natural areas of Jackson County. The presentation and discussion continued.

The NRED Board discussed presenting the information at the November Real Property Meeting and the County Board meeting to help reinforce the data and allow County Board members a chance to see what NRED has been working on. The board briefly discussed the next steps that NRED would be working on before Lean asked for a motion to adjourn.

New Business

IV. 2023-507 Approval of Payroll Expenses

Nothing to approve this month.

V. 2023-508 Approval of Miscellaneous Expenses

Nothing to approve this month.

Good and Welfare

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mulholland, seconded by Maxwell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.